



A Chapter of the American Planning Association

February 12, 2008

Representative Barbara Byrum
S1086 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: SB 206, Substitute 3

Honorable Representative Byrum and members of the House Intergovernmental, Urban and Regional Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 206, Sub 3, the Planning Enabling Act.

The purpose of this bill is to unify the State's three planning enabling acts: the Township Planning Act, the Municipal Planning and the County Planning Act, into a single Planning Enabling Act.

There is strong support for the unification of the planning acts by the professional planning community, and the development community as well. Local government will benefit greatly since a single planning act will provide consistency among municipal types, create a single set of notice provisions, establish a logical sequence of activities within the act, and make it easier to make needed changes in the future.

Planning is the foundation for how Michigan communities grow and evolve, and clear and consistent enabling legislation paves the way for local government to do a better job handling this critical responsibility.

For more than two years a diverse and representative stakeholder workgroup met to negotiate the unification of the three acts. Represented were the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Association of Planning, the homebuilders, the realtors, and various state agencies. Together we went through the bill line by line, negotiating, compromising, and working to create a statute that would better guide growth and development at the local government level.

If Michigan hopes to stay competitive in the global and national economies, planning a future that includes a healthy balance of commerce, housing alternatives, transportation systems,

"Making Great Places Happen"



219 South Main Street Suite 300 ♦ Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 ♦ Phone: 734.913.2000 ♦ Fax: 734.913.2061 ♦ www.planningmi.org

open space and farmland is necessary. The unification of the state's three planning acts achieves this goal.

The Michigan Association of Planning strongly supports SB 206, Substitute 3, and asks that the House Intergovernmental, Urban and Regional Affairs Committee approve this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Andrea Brown, AICP
Executive Director